In cases of payment of blood money, when poverty is proved, the Mission submits Mercy Petitions for release of the concerned detainees. In cases where the Mission comes to know of any Indian citizen who has been awarded the death sentence, the Mission approaches the Saudi authorities at the highest level with Mercy Petitions for their release or for a lesser punishment.

Extradition treaties with SAARC countries

3257. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extradition treaties between India and all the other SAARC member countries are existing;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the dates of signing of such treaties with the respective countries;

(c) if not, the details of countries with who extradition treaties could not yet be entered into;

(d) the reasons therefor in respective cases; and

(e) the details of efforts made/being made to enter into extradition treaties with those SAARC member countries with whom no treaty exists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The Government of India has signed Extradition Treaties with two SAARC member countries *viz.* Nepal and Bhutan. There also exists an Extradition Arrangement short of a treaty with Sri Lanka. India signed an Extradition Treaty with Nepal in 1953, which came into force in 1963. The Extradition Arrangement with Sri Lanka became operative from September 1978. The Extradition Agreement with Bhutan was singed in 1996.

(c) and (d) There is no Extradition Treaty with Bangladesh, Maladives and Pakistan. The conclusion of an Extradition Treaty is a bilateral process, where both the signing States have to indicate their willingness in negotiating and signing such a Treaty.

(e) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government of India to conclude Extradition Treaties with as many countries as possible. The Government has been taking up this matter the concerned Governments from time to time.